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REMARKS

The present case now has eleven (11) claims, Claims 1-9, 23, and 24, with Claims 1, 6, 23, and 24 being independent claims. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9 are rejected. Claims 5 and 8 have been indicated as allowable. Claim 23 and 24 are new.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,176,213 to Van Linden. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Linden. The Applicant has amended Claim 6 to indicate the use of "top and bottom sides." The Applicant believes that the amendment overcomes the rejection.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,595,833 to Gardner, et al. Gardner was described as teaching a fuel cell receptacle with a plurality of manifolds. A plurality of fuel stacks (24) was defined as a stack having individual ports, *i.e.*, distribution members on both opposite ends.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Element 24 shows a first module as opposed to a complete solid oxide fuel cell. The first module 24 includes passages for a first reactant while the second perpendicular module includes passages for a second reactant. *See Figs. 6A-6D.* This orientation does not appear to show a plurality of fuel cells including top and bottom sides and ports as is called for in the claims. Rather, Gardiner appears to show a perpendicular distribution system so as to supply each module with the first or the second reactant in a largely unidirectional fashion. ^Q No use of anything that can be considered a top or a bottom port of a fuel cell or a plurality of fuel cells appears to be shown in the reference.

The Applicant further traverses the rejection of Claim 2 for the reasons given above and for the reason that Gardner does not appear to show ports positioned on the corners of the fuel cells.

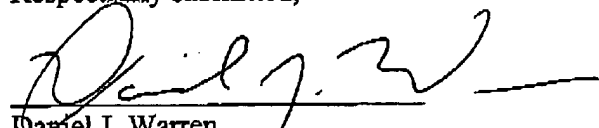
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The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependant Claim 3 for the reasons given above and for the reason that Gardner does not appear to show ports on both sides of the fuel cell.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that it has responded to each matter raised in the Office Action. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404.853.8028.

Respectfully submitted,


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